JUN 1 7 2004 E THORNBURG LLP

AF/1725 IFW

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group:

1725

Confirmation No.:

1054

Application No.:

10/040,092

Invention:

STRIP CASTING APPARATUS

Applicant:

Kato et al.

Filed:

October 19, 2001

Attorney

Docket:

29385-68773

Examiner:

Kuang Y. Lin

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box

1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ERIC W. BEARD

(Printed Name)

AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment under Rule 116 is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 27, 2004, in accord with the discussion at the Interview on May 21, 2004 to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Listing of Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.